

The Times Dispatch

DAILY-WEEKLY-SUNDAY.

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Total \$3,479.67

Mr. Sharp compares this assessment of \$300 with that of \$300 as shown in the auditor's report and figures out a decrease of \$75,300, but if he had made comparison between the auditor's report of 1890 and the auditor's report of 1895, he would have discovered very substantial gains instead of a decrease. The explanation is that the supplemental report of the State Corporation Commission was not included in the figures published in The Times-Dispatch. With these figures added, Richmond shows a total real estate assessment for 1895 of \$4,347,828 against \$5,85,779 in 1890.

Mr. Sharp then takes us to task on the story of Richmond's personal assessment of \$3,934,881, and says that included in this amount is the rolling stock of the Chesapeake and Ohio Railway Company, and adds that none of the other cities mentioned "enjoys the advantage of assessing property belonging to many others." In both of these statements he is also in error. Our figures did not include the rolling stock of the Chesapeake and Ohio Railroad or of any railroad. And again, Petersburg assesses the rolling stock of the Atlantic Coast Line and the Seaboard; Danville, of the Louisville and Western; Norfolk, of the Norfolk and Southern; and Roanoke, of the Norfolk and Western. Richmond enjoys no exclusive privilege on this account. The "fallacy" is Mr. Sharp's, and it remained for Mr. Umlauf to give legal expression to the people's will.

By introducing his ordinance Mr. Umlauf at once gained the opposition of many bar-keepers and the liquor interests generally, but he never exerted a hair's breadth. Even the amendment offered by Alderman Dubney extending the time of closing to 12 midnight is in reality a personal victory for Mr. Umlauf, for without the earnest and intelligent efforts of Mr. Umlauf those openly and secretly opposed to any restriction of the liquor traffic would have made the closing 2 A. M. and the opening hour 4 A. M., if they made any change at all.

But Mr. Umlauf stood for more than his own opinion. He had behind him the unanimous demand of this community for early closing, and while that demand would ultimately have found some successful champion, it in no way detracts from the credit and gratitude due Mr. Umlauf to-day from his fellow-citizens.

Mr. Umlauf has served his people bravely, intelligently and successfully, and no less than six hours a night from the time when liquor can be sold. He has taken temptation from many an innocent young man and destruction from many who could not save themselves.

Richmond has made another long step forward, and The Times-Dispatch congratulates the community upon the swift and far-reaching victory for better conditions embodied in the ordinance agreed upon last night.

Midnight Closing Assured.

Midnight closing for Richmond's bars is practically an accomplished fact, and to Councillor Jacob Umlauf, more than to any other member of the city government, are thanks due for this most important reform. On October 2d, when the ordinance for closing pool-rooms was under discussion, The Times-Dispatch said: "If the Council and the Police Board really wish to improve conditions in this city, they could do nothing better than to take up at once the question of midnight closing for all bars-rooms."

This suggestion was urged continuously by The Times-Dispatch, whose fight for midnight closing and against all-night dives was at one endorsed by the leading religious organizations of the city and by the great body of the citizens, but it remained for Mr. Umlauf to give legal expression to the people's will.

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Facts vs. Fallacy.

Somebody in Norfolk has sent us a letter from the pen of Mr. Walter Sharp, published in one of the local papers, in which interesting comment is made on figures recently published in The Times-Dispatch, relating to the manufacturing and packing business of Richmond. Mr. Sharp is chivalrous enough to pay a beautiful tribute to Richmond, "the wealth, its women, its splendid history, its incomparable pictures and all its many other charms," but says that when a Richmond newspaper sees fit to make claims at the expense of its own progressive city, he feels impelled "to expose the fallacy of these beautiful figures."

The figures relating to manufacturing which The Times-Dispatch published were taken from the United States census bulletin, but Mr. Sharp says that he showed on a former occasion that such figures, so far as they related to Norfolk, were far below the mark. But that is a quarrel with the Census Bureau, so that we refer that part of his letter to Washington. The "boastful figures" are not of our making.

It is at last announced that Mr. T. C. Platt of New York will resign his seat in the United States Senate. He is a man of fortune, and but lately he was a power in New York politics. But he is now a physical wreck; he is separated from his wife; he has been accused of late of gross immorality, and he will spend his last days in sorrow and humiliation.

He is at present unwell, and appears to be failing rapidly.

The Passing of Platt.

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What with the Bonus, the Platoff and the uniform law congress, it is an anxious week, all right.

The government's Standard Oil petition is as long as a Marie Corelli novel, but better reading.

This would be an appropriate time for Panama to adopt "Westward Ho!" as its national motto.

You can buy an ounce of silver for 2 cents, but possibly you would rather have the \$2.

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